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 JPM-CASEY: 1ST LD: A009:310
 FEES: FIRST 11 GRAPS NEW
 FREAGAN SAYS HE'LL MEET WITH SENATORS ON CIA BOSS
 FBY MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN
 FAND
 FROBERT PARRY

F ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

WASHINGTON (AP) - PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID TODAY HE WILL MEET WITH SENATORS ABOUT HIS EMBATTLED CIA DIRECTOR; WILLIAM J. CASEY.

REAGAN; LEAVING A CAPITOL HILL MEETING WITH HOUSE REPUBLICANS; AGAIN EXPRESSED FAITH IN CASEY AND SAID "I HAVE NOT CHANGED MY MIND" ABOUT SUPPORTING HIM. "I'M TALKING TO SENATORS TODAY;" HE ADDED.

LATER; PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESMAN DAVID GERGEN SAID IT MAY BE STAFF MEMBERS; RATHER THAN REAGAN HIMSELF; WHO TALK WITH SENATORS. "THERE WILL BE DISCUSSIONS WITH SENATORS TODAY;" GERGEN ADDED.

NEITHER REAGAN NOR GERGEN SAID WHICH SENATORS WOULD BE INVOLVED OR WHETHER BOTH DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS WOULD BE INCLUDED.

DEPUTY WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY LARRY SPEAKES SAID EARLIER THAT WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF JAMES A. BAKER WOULD TALK TO SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER; WHO ON THURSDAY ACCUSED CASEY OF DAMAGING THE SPY AGENCY.

GOLDWATER; CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE; PUBLICLY SUGGESTED THAT CASEY RESIGN AND SAID COMMITTEE INVESTIGATORS WERE EXAMINING WHETHER THE CIA DIRECTOR; WHO HAS BEEN ON THE JOB SIX MONTHS; MISLED THE SENATE DURING HIS CONFIRMATION PROCESS LAST JANUARY.

IN AN EXTRAORDINARY NEWS CONFERENCE THURSDAY NIGHT IN THE CAPITOL; GOLDWATER SHARPLY CRITICIZED CASEY'S CHOICE OF MAX HUGEL; A NEW HAMPSHIRE BUSINESSMAN WHO HAD WORKED ON THE REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN; TO BE THE CIA'S DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS; A HIGHLY SECRET AND SENSITIVE JOB. CASEY WAS REAGAN'S NATIONAL CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR LAST YEAR.

"THAT HE (CASEY) APPOINTED AN INEXPERIENCED MAN TO BE IN EFFECT THE NATION'S TOP SPY WAS BAD ENOUGH;" GOLDWATER SAID. "I MUST SAY THAT AS A PERSON WITH A LONG INVOLVEMENT WITH INTELLIGENCE MATTERS; THAT WAS A VERY BAD MISTAKE AND I MIGHT EVEN SAY DANGEROUS."

"THE DAMAGE DONE BY MR. HUGEL'S APPOINTMENT IS A SUFFICIENT POSITION FOR MR. CASEY TO DECIDE TO RETIRE OR THE PRESIDENT TO HAVE HIM RETIRE;" THE SENATOR SAID.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLICAN NOTED; HOWEVER: "MR. CASEY IS A CREATURE OF THE PRESIDENT. AS LONG AS THE PRESIDENT RETAINS CONFIDENCE IN HIM; HE